

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Research Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes November 19, 1993

Attendees

Julie Anderson, Monterey Bay NMS
Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Andrew DeVogelaere, Elkhorn Slough NERR
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Tami Grove, California Coastal Commission
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Terry Jackson, Monterey Bay NMS
Frank Schwing, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Mary Silver, UCSC
Rick Starr, Sea Grant Extension Program
Paul Wild, CA Dept of Fish and Game
Mary Yoklavich, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG

Greg Cailliet, RAC Chair, introduced the meeting. He suggested that anyone having items that they would like added to future RAC meeting agendas should contact Greg, Terry Jackson or Julie Anderson.

SAC Update (Terry):

Sanctuary Advisory Council application announcements were distributed in October, with an Oct. 29 deadline. Over 70 applications were received, and have been sent to the Sam Farr Task Force for review. On December 1, the Task Force will recommend three applicants for each category of interest. Recommendations will be sent to Terry, who, along with SRD, will select one representative per category. The first official SAC meeting will be scheduled in January. RAC and EAC chairs will represent research and education interests on the SAC.

Sanctuary Personnel (Terry):

with new hires, personnel include:

- Terry Jackson, Manager
- Mark Pickett, Assistant Manager
- Liz Love, Education Coordinator
- Julie Anderson, Project Coordinator
- Aaron King, Program Specialist
- Marilyn Mayo, Administrative Assistant
- Bob Jones, Sanctuary enforcement officer
- Patrick Cotter, Water Quality Specialist (divides time between MBNMS and Coastal Commission)

Because the Sanctuary budget has been cut, it is unclear if or when a full-time research coordinator will be hired. Until hiring occurs, Julie Anderson has assumed this position.

New Sanctuary office as of early January: 299 Foam Street, Monterey, CA 93940 (near Cannery Row)

Blue Fin (Terry):

The CA Dept of Fish and Game Blue Fin enforcement vessel, located in Moss Landing Harbor, will remain in Monterey Bay for at least one more year. Support to retain the Blue Fin has come from NOAA (unclear yet specifically where within NOAA) for \$125K, with matching funds from the State. NOAA is working out an agreement with for the Blue Fin to focus on Sanctuary issues.

Sanctuary Vessel (Terry):

Sanctuary has obtained from Customs in San Diego a 28 foot, duel-hull Shark Cat, which is docked at the Coast Guard pier in Monterey. The boat is available for Sanctuaryrelated activities, and will be used primarily for educational and research activities, as well as maintaining a Sanctuary presence in the Bay.

Integrated Coastal Management (Julie):

A Core Group of federal, state and local agencies, nonprofit groups and user groups has been assembled to apply the Integrated Coastal Management process to develop a Water Quality Protection Plan for the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary. This plan should take approximately 2 years to complete. The Core Group's near-term plans include identifying water quality priorities, developing subjective and quantitative water quality targets, and developing management strategies. Baseline information on water quality issues in the Sanctuary is now being collected. A January workshop is scheduled that will bring together a diverse body of water quality experts who will aid in refining existing information and developing targets and strategies. A November 29-30 Core Group meeting is scheduled that will prepare for the upcoming workshop.

Research Plan (Greg):

Please let Terry know if you have any more changes to the research plan. The Table of Contents is missing, and is enclosed here. A new document containing the Table of Contents will be printed and distributed.

Overview of Mitchell Bill and the Southwest Regional Research Board (Rick):

The Southwest Regional Board (range extends from Sea of Cortez to Point Reyes) is one of nine regional boards that was established by funding from the Mitchell Bill. The focus of this funding is to provide planning money to develop regional research plans. Sea Grant in La Jolla will administer the funds.

The regional board is particularly interested in funding research that concentrates on trans-boundary issues with Mexico and that focuses on applied problems in the coastal zone, primarily pollution. The board is holding a series of three workshops to design the research plan. From this, research priorities will be developed. Rick Starr will distribute to the RAC an information packet on the Mitchell Bill, a description of the Board's functions, and a final summary when it's available.

Research Symposium (Rick and Andy):

The Research Symposium concentrating on the land-margin interface will occur all day on Saturday, February 5. All speakers are confirmed, and there will be no registration fee. Fliers will be distributed to marine labs in the area. Wayne Sousa, the Ricketts Speaker, will discuss mud snails. The committee agreed that next year, the Symposium will be combined with the Western Society of Naturalists conference at the end of December. It was suggested that the Symposium component of the WSN conference be open to the public and free of charge.

Steve said that on February 19, the American Association for the Advancement of Science meeting will feature the Monterey Bay. This meeting will be held at 2:30 at the San Francisco Hilton.

Site Characterization (Greg):

Greg and others emphasized their desire to have West Coast groups submit proposals for the Site Characterization RFP.

A subcommittee of the RAC should consider being part of the proposal review process. Written comments for last year's proposal will be submitted. The RFP is due out in January.

Tami and Terry suggested that the RFP scope of work was too large and should be reconsidered. The RFP should focus only on the resource characterization, and should not include ecosystem functions and management schemes. Others concurred.

Greg emphasized that the characterization needs two things: a small core of committed individuals who can concentrate on the project, and a cooperative effort by others to contribute information.

A variety of ideas were discussed, including having selected researchers submit papers on specific topics for publication. These papers could be combined into one document for presentation. Terry feels that the existing FEIS should be used as a baseline document for further expansion of certain topics. Information from the Research Plan should also be used in any final document.

An outline of the contents of the RFP was re-worked, based on a draft outline presented by Tami. The focus of the characterization will be environmental parameters, biologic communities and processes. Greg is drafting an updated outline of site characterization contents to be sent back to Helen Golde at SRD.

Econet: A final decision on whether Econet or some other communication system should be used will be decided upon at our next meeting. If you don't want to be on Econet, please bring an alternative option for discussion.

Permit reviews will be discussed next month

NEXT MEETING: Friday, December 17, 8:30am-12pm, location TBA